

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6133
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBSSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1033

LUSAKA FOR YOUNG, MOOSE AND PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDVE, MZ, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIAN PROPOSALS: COMMENTS ON MACHEL'S SUPPORT FOR
MUGABE AND THE ZIMBABWEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

REF: LAGOS 9768

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS CONTAINED REFTTEL.
WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OUR VIEWS ON THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN
PARA 11 RE MACHEL AND MUGABE.

2. WOULD MACHEL BACK MUGABE FOR IDEOLOGICAL REASONS; IN OUR
VIEW, MACHEL IS NOT COMMITTED TO MUGABE AS AN INDIVIDUAL.
MACHEL'S PRINCIPAL COMMITMENT IS TO THE ARMED STRUGGLE AND
THOSE WHO HAVE FAITHFULLY PROSECUTED IT. MACHEL CURRENTLY
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SUPPORTS MUGABE BECAUSE HE (MUGABE) REPRESENTS THE ZIMBABWEAN
INSURGENTS, WHO UNTIL RECENTLY WERE MAINLY ZANU CADRE. THESE
INSURGENTS ARE CUT OUT OF THE SAME MOLD AS THE
FRELIMO LEADERS. IF THE ZIMBABWEAN INSURGENTS WOULD PREFER
SOMEONE OTHER THAN MUGABE (AS IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE IN THE WEEKS
AND MONTHS AHEAD), MACHEL WOULD SWITCH HIS SUPPORT TO WHOEVER
WOULD BE SELECTED BY THE FIGHTERS TO REPRESENT THEM. IN OUR

VIEW, THIS WOULD MOST LIKELY BE JOSIAH TONGORARA, REX NGONGO OR ONE OF THE OTHER ZANU MILITARY COMMANDERS.

3. WOULD MACHEL'S DEPENDENCE UPON THE SOVIETS AND THEIR SUPPORT FOR NKOMO ALTER MACHEL'S SUPPORT FOR MUGABE? WHILE MACHEL IS BEHOLDEN TO THE SOVIETS FOR THEIR CURRENT AND PAST MILITARY ASSISTANCE, THIS IS NOT LIKELY TO ALTER HIS SUPPORT FOR MUGABE AND THE ZANU-LED ZIPA INSURGENTS. MACHEL BELIEVES NKOMO IS AN OPPORTUNIST, A HALF-HEARTED SOCIAL REVOLUTIONARY, AND A "JOHNNY COME LATELY" TO THE ARMED STRUGGLE. MACHEL PROBABLY THINKS THAT, GIVEN THE RIGHT SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES, NKOMO WOULD MAKE A DEAL WITH SMITH THAT MIGHT EXCLUDE THE ZANU FIGHTERS. IF THE SOVIETS WERE TO APPLY TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON MACHEL TO SWING IN NKOMO'S DIRECTION, MACHEL WOULD PROBABLY REACT STRONGLY. BEFORE MOZAMBIQUE'S INDEPENDENCE, THE CHINESE WERE FRELIMO'S CLOSEST SUPPORTERS. WHEN THE PRC SWUNG TOWARD HOLDEN ROBERTO AND THE FNLA DURING THE ANGOLA CIVL WAR, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PRC AND FRELIMO COOLED.

4. THERE IS ONE FEATURE OF OUR RHODESIAN PROPOSAL, WHICH APPARENTLY HAS NOT ELICITED MUCH DISCUSSION DURING TALKS LEADING UP TO YOUR MEETING ON THE 27TH, THAT MAY IRRITATE MACHEL. THIS IS THE LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY EARMARKED FOR THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND. MACHEL CANNOT HELP BUT COMPARE THE BILLION OR SO FOR ZIMBABWEAN DEVELOPMENT WITH THE APPROXIMATELY \$100 MILLION PLEDGED TO DATE BY ALL DONORS TO

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THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR HELP TO MOZAMBIQUE. MACHEL MAY CHOOSE NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE FUND AT THIS TIME, BUT THE SEEMING INEQUITY IN TREATMENT OF RHODESIA AND MOZAMBIQUE WILL RANKLE. OUR OVERALL PROPOSAL WOULD BE MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE TO HIM IF MONEY FROM THE FUND MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO MOZAMBIQUE, E.G., TO HELP SPEED REHABILITATION OF THE BEIRA-SALISBURG RAILWAY LINE, TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, MOZAMBIQUE WILL NEED HELP AS WELL AS RHODESIA.

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Sent Date: 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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